

FIFTEENTH

ANNUAL REPORT

OF

The Belfast District Asylum

FOR

THE INSANE POOR

OF THE COUNTIES OF ANTRIM, DOWN, AND COUNTY OF THE TOWN OF
CARRICKFERGUS,

For the Year ending 31st of March, 1845.

DRAWN UP BY THE RESIDENT PHYSICIAN.

ORDERED, BY THE GOVERNORS, TO BE PRINTED AND CIRCULATED.

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BELFAST:

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PRINTED BY FRANCIS D. FINLAY,  
CALENDER-STREET.

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1845.

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# CONTENTS OF REPORT.

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|                                                              | PAGE. |
|--------------------------------------------------------------|-------|
| Accommodation, ... ..                                        | 18    |
| Admissions and discharges during the year, ... .. (Table 1,) | 9     |
| Ages of Patients admitted, ... .. (Table 3,)                 | 10    |
| Do. do. discharged, ... .. (Table 10,)                       | 12    |
| Do. do. deceased, ... .. (Table 11,)                         | 17    |
| “ Criminal Lunatics,” ... ..                                 | 12    |
| “ Dangerous ” do., ... ..                                    | 12    |
| Deaths during the year, ... ..                               | 17    |
| Do. immediate causes of, ... .. (Table 12,)                  | 18    |
| Domestic State, ... .. (Table 7,)                            | 11    |
| Dormitories, ... ..                                          | 20    |
| Education, degree of, ... .. (Table 9,)                      | 12    |
| Employment, . ... ..                                         | 22    |
| Expenditure, ... ..                                          | 23    |
| Governors and Officers, ... ..                               | 7     |
| Health of Inmates, ... ..                                    | 16    |
| Insanity, causes of, in year's admissions, ... .. (Table 4,) | 10    |
| Do., forms of, do., . ... .. (Table 5,)                      | 10    |
| Infirmary Wards, ... ..                                      | 20    |
| Occupation of Patients admitted, ... .. (Table 8,)           | 11    |
| Patients' Bedding, ... ..                                    | 22    |
| Per Centages of discharges and deaths, ... .. (Table 2,)     | 9     |
| Provincial Asylums, ... ..                                   | 18    |
| Religious denominations, ... .. (Table 6,)                   | 11    |
| Do., Services, ... ..                                        | 22    |
| Restraint, ... ..                                            | 14    |
| Suicidal Patients, ... ..                                    | 14    |
| Warming of Day-rooms, ... ..                                 | 21    |



# CONTENTS OF GENERAL STATISTICAL TABLES.

|                                                                           | PAGE. |
|---------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------|
| Admissions and discharges of the year ended 31st March, 1845 (Table 13),  | 24    |
| Do., do., of each County of the District, in do., (Table 14),             | 24    |
| Do., do., total, of each County in, do., (Table 19),                      | 26    |
| Employment, general nature of, ... .. (Table 25),                         | 28    |
| Insanity, forms of, and state, as to recovery, &c., ... (Table 23),       | 27    |
| Number remaining and average number, of each year, (Table 22),            | 27    |
| Per. centages of discharges and deaths, ... .. (Table 19),                | 26    |
| Period of duration of disease, before admission, ... (Table 15),          | 25    |
| Do., of residence in Asylum, ... .. (Table 16),                           | 25    |
| Do., of total duration of disease, ... .. (Table 17),                     | 25    |
| Religious denominations of total number of Patients admitted, (Table 21), | 27    |
| Do., do., of Patients remaining, ... .. (Table 20),                       | 26    |
| Season, admissions and discharges in each, ... (Table 18),                | 26    |
| Works and manufactures, ... .. (Table 24),                                | 28    |
| ~~~~~                                                                     |       |
| Financial Statement, ... .. (Table 26),                                   | 29    |
| Farm and Garden produce and expenditure, ... (Table 27),                  | 30    |
| Dietary Table, ... .. 31                                                  | 31    |





# FIFTEENTH ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

## BELFAST DISTRICT LUNATIC ASYLUM,

FOR THE YEAR ENDING 31st MARCH, 1845.

TABLE I.

|                                         |     |     | Males. | Females. | Total. |
|-----------------------------------------|-----|-----|--------|----------|--------|
| On the books, 31st March, 1844,         | ... | ... | 144    | 120      | 264    |
| Admitted since, new cases,              | ..  | ... | 58     | 49       | 107    |
| Re-admitted, having relapsed, ...       | ... | ... | 2      | 4        | 6      |
|                                         |     |     | —      | —        | —      |
| Total under treatment during the year,  | ... | ... | 204    | 173      | 377    |
|                                         |     |     | —      | —        | —      |
| Discharged, recovered, ...              | ... | ... | 33     | 35       | 68     |
| Do., relieved, and on trial, ...        | ... | ... | 15     | 6        | 21     |
| Died, ...                               | ... | ... | 14     | 26       | 40     |
| Leaving in the house, 31st March, 1845, | ... | ... | 142    | 106      | 248    |

being 16 less than at the corresponding period of last year.

The admissions in the aggregate, this year, were one less than last year.

Daily average number of patients during the year, ... 258.83

Do. for the year ending 31st March, 1844, ... 253.15

Average annual expense of each patient, this year, including every charge of management, ... £12 9 7 $\frac{1}{4}$

Do. for the year 1844, ... 12 18 2

TABLE II.

Per centages of discharges and deaths, during the year :—

|                        | Of 113 recent cases. |           | Of 264 Chronic cases. |           | Calculated on 258.83, the average number. |           |
|------------------------|----------------------|-----------|-----------------------|-----------|-------------------------------------------|-----------|
|                        | No. of cases.        | Per cent. | No. of cases.         | Per cent. | No. of cases.                             | Per cent. |
| Discharged, recovered, | 40                   | 35.40     | 28                    | 10.60     | 68                                        | 26.36     |
| Do., relieved,         | 12                   | 10.62     | 9                     | 3.41      | 21                                        | 8.14      |
| Died, ...              | 10                   | 8.85      | 30                    | 11.37     | 40                                        | 15.50     |

TABLE III.—AGES.

Ages of the 113 patients admitted during the year:—

|                      |     |     |     |     | Males.   | Females. | Total.    |
|----------------------|-----|-----|-----|-----|----------|----------|-----------|
| From 10 to 20 years, | ... | ... | ... | ... | 3        | 4        | 7         |
| Do. 20 to 30 do.,    | ... | ... | ... | ... | 18       | 8        | 26        |
| Do. 30 to 40 do.,    | ... | ... | ... | ... | 16       | 16       | 32        |
| Do. 40 to 50 do.,    | ... | ... | ... | ... | 10       | 12       | 22        |
| Do. 50 to 60 do.,    | ... | ... | ... | ... | 9        | 10       | 19        |
| Do. 60 to 70 do.,    | ... | ... | ... | ... | 4        | 2        | 6         |
| Do. 70 to 80 do.,    | ... | ... | ... | ... | 0        | 1        | 1         |
|                      |     |     |     |     | <hr/> 60 | <hr/> 53 | <hr/> 113 |

TABLE IV.—CAUSES OF INSANITY.

Causes of insanity, as assigned in the "*admission forms*," in 77 cases out of 113 admitted, during the year:—

|                                            |     |     |     |     | Males.   | Females. | Total.    |
|--------------------------------------------|-----|-----|-----|-----|----------|----------|-----------|
| Grief, disappointment, anxiety,            | ... | ... | ... | ... | 5        | 8        | 13        |
| Pecuniary embarrassments,                  | ... | ... | ... | ... | 7        | 3        | 10        |
| Intemperance,                              | ... | ... | ... | ... | 4        | 3        | 7         |
| Hereditary tendency,                       | ... | ... | ... | ... | 5        | 1        | 6         |
| Fright,                                    | ... | ... | ... | ... | 0        | 6        | 6         |
| Bodily ailments,                           | ... | ... | ... | ... | 1        | 3        | 4         |
| Injury of the head,                        | ... | ... | ... | ... | 4        | 0        | 4         |
| Extreme Poverty,                           | ... | ... | ... | ... | 2        | 2        | 4         |
| Effects of sickness,                       | ... | ... | ... | ... | 0        | 3        | 3         |
| Religious excitement,                      | ... | ... | ... | ... | 0        | 3        | 3         |
| Regret at entering into the married state, | ... | ... | ... | ... | 1        | 1        | 2         |
| Epilepsy,                                  | ... | ... | ... | ... | 2        | 0        | 2         |
| Desertion by husband,                      | ... | ... | ... | ... | 0        | 2        | 2         |
| Abuse of calomel,                          | ... | ... | ... | ... | 2        | 0        | 2         |
| Over-bodily exertion,                      | ... | ... | ... | ... | 2        | 0        | 2         |
| Jealousy,                                  | ... | ... | ... | ... | 1        | 1        | 2         |
| Severe beatings,                           | ... | ... | ... | ... | 1        | 1        | 2         |
| Sedentary employments,                     | ... | ... | ... | ... | 1        | 1        | 2         |
| Want of employment,                        | ... | ... | ... | ... | 0        | 1        | 1         |
|                                            |     |     |     |     | <hr/> 38 | <hr/> 39 | <hr/> 77  |
| Gradual approach, and causes unknown,      | ... | ... | ... | ... | 22       | 14       | 36        |
|                                            |     |     |     |     | <hr/> 60 | <hr/> 53 | <hr/> 113 |

TABLE V.—FORMS OF DISEASE.

Forms of mental disorder in the 113 cases admitted, during the year:—

|                                               |     |     |     |     | Males.   | Females. | Total.    |
|-----------------------------------------------|-----|-----|-----|-----|----------|----------|-----------|
| Mania (or general insanity),                  | ... | ... | ... | ... | 46       | 37       | 83        |
| Mono-mania—Mélancholia (or partial insanity), | ... | ... | ... | ... | 11       | 12       | 23        |
| Dementia (or general incoherency),            | ... | ... | ... | ... | 3        | 4        | 7         |
|                                               |     |     |     |     | <hr/> 60 | <hr/> 53 | <hr/> 113 |



TABLE VI.—RELIGION.

Religious denominations to which the 113 patients, admitted during the year, belonged:—

|                                                | <i>Males.</i> | <i>Females.</i> | <i>Total.</i> |
|------------------------------------------------|---------------|-----------------|---------------|
| Established Church of England and Ireland, ... | 13            | 23              | 36            |
| Roman Catholics, ...                           | 19            | 11              | 30            |
| Dissenters, ...                                | 28            | 19              | 47            |
|                                                | 60            | 53              | 113           |

TABLE VII.—DOMESTIC STATE.

Domestic state of the 113 patients admitted, during the year:—

|                          | <i>Males.</i> | <i>Females.</i> | <i>Total.</i> |
|--------------------------|---------------|-----------------|---------------|
| Married, ...             | 28            | 26              | 54            |
| Single, ...              | 31            | 21              | 52            |
| Widowers and widows, ... | 1             | 6               | 7             |
|                          | 60            | 53              | 113           |

TABLE VIII.—OCCUPATION.

Occupation of the 113 patients admitted, during the year:—

|                                     | <i>Males.</i> | <i>Females.</i> | <i>Total.</i> |
|-------------------------------------|---------------|-----------------|---------------|
| Blacksmith, ...                     | 2             | 0               | 2             |
| Bleacher, ...                       | 1             | 0               | 1             |
| Carpenter and builder, ...          | 1             | 0               | 1             |
| Cabinet-maker, ...                  | 1             | 0               | 1             |
| Chandler's apprentice, ...          | 1             | 0               | 1             |
| Domestic servants, ...              | 1             | 7               | 8             |
| Embroiderers, ...                   | 0             | 2               | 2             |
| Farmers, ...                        | 10            | 0               | 10            |
| Knitters, Spinners, and Sewers, ... | 0             | 24              | 24            |
| Labourers, ...                      | 17            | 0               | 17            |
| Mill-workers, ...                   | 0             | 2               | 2             |
| Pedlars, ...                        | 1             | 1               | 2             |
| Pork-cutter, ...                    | 1             | 0               | 1             |
| Saddler, ...                        | 2             | 0               | 2             |
| Sailor, ...                         | 1             | 0               | 1             |
| Schoolmasters, ...                  | 2             | 0               | 2             |
| Shoemakers, ...                     | 2             | 0               | 2             |
| Ship-builder, ...                   | 1             | 0               | 1             |
| Shop-keeper, ...                    | 2             | 0               | 2             |
| Stone-breaker, ...                  | 1             | 0               | 1             |
| Silk-dyer, ...                      | 1             | 0               | 1             |
| Tailor, ...                         | 2             | 0               | 2             |
| Watchmaker, ...                     | 1             | 0               | 1             |
| Weavers, ...                        | 5             | 3               | 8             |
| Winders to do., ...                 | 0             | 2               | 2             |
| Writing-clerk, ...                  | 1             | 0               | 1             |
| Without any known occupation, ...   | 3             | 12              | 15            |
|                                     | 60            | 53              | 113           |

TABLE IX.—EDUCATION.

Degree of education of the 113 patients admitted, during the year :—

|                           |     |     |     | Males. | Females. | Total. |
|---------------------------|-----|-----|-----|--------|----------|--------|
| Ordinarily well-educated, | ... | ... | ... | 3      | 2        | 5      |
| Can read and write,       | ... | ... | ... | 40     | 18       | 58     |
| Can read only,            | ... | ... | ... | 7      | 21       | 28     |
| Totally uneducated,       | ... | ... | ... | 10     | 12       | 22     |
|                           |     |     |     | 60     | 53       | 113    |

TABLE X.—AGES.

Ages of the 68 patients discharged, recovered, during the year :—

|                      |     |     |     | Males. | Females. | Total. |
|----------------------|-----|-----|-----|--------|----------|--------|
| From 10 to 20 years, | ... | ... | ... | 1      | 1        | 2      |
| Do. 20 to 30 do.,    | ... | ... | ... | 11     | 9        | 20     |
| Do. 30 to 40 do.,    | ... | ... | ... | 12     | 9        | 21     |
| Do. 40 to 50 do.,    | ... | ... | ... | 5      | 11       | 16     |
| Do. 50 to 60 do.,    | ... | ... | ... | 3      | 4        | 7      |
| Do. 60 to 70 do.,    | ... | ... | ... | 1      | 1        | 2      |
|                      |     |     |     | 33     | 35       | 68     |

#### “ DANGEROUS LUNATICS.”

The cases received as “dangerous lunatics,” during the year, from the Gaols of the District, agreeably to 1 Victoria, c. 1, amounted to *twelve* (viz.,—four males and eight females), *six* being from County Down Gaol (two males, four females), and *six* from County Antrim Gaol (two males, four females).

#### “ CRIMINAL LUNATICS.”

No case acquitted of crime, on the plea of insanity, occurred during the year; and the number of “criminal lunatics,” now in the house, amounts to six only,—three males and three females,—which is two less than last reported, owing to the circumstance of two females, of this class, having died since that period,—one of Pulmonary disease, the other of an Apoplectic affection.

One of the above strangled her own child (a girl, aged eight years), under an apprehension that some “very dreadful end” was awaiting it. She had been an inmate two years, and upwards, and was 35 years of age when death took place. Her mind continued more or less disturbed during the whole period she was in the house, the prevailing delusion she laboured under being, that there was no salvation for her. The propensity to homicidal acts was so strongly marked, that the closest and most



vigilant superintendence was, very generally, obliged to be kept up throughout her inmateship,—a propensity which she manifested, by repeatedly attacking other patients, on the slightest provocation, catching them by the neck, and attempting their suffocation, by taking a death-like gripe of the throat with her hands : still, for lengthened periods, her general behaviour and habits would be mild and correct ; and, both in aspect and features, she was a very prepossessing person, the physiognomy indicating nothing whatever of a vicious disposition, but rather the reverse ; nor did Phrenology contribute much more in deciphering her character, the organ of “Destructiveness,” not being, by any means, morbidly developed. It may further be observed, in now relating a few of the chief points in this female’s history, that she would, with the greatest coolness and precision, and without any apparent remorse whatever, recite over all the circumstances connected with the destruction of her child’s life,—stating, that, in the first instance, she had endeavoured to impede respiration, by applying a garter, as a ligature, around its throat ; but, finding this to be insufficient for her purpose, she next procured a “binder,” or head-band, with which she succeeded in effecting her Infanticidal object ; after which, she deliberately stripped the lifeless body, and placed it in bed, as if asleep : it was, also, mentioned by her, that she had previously attempted to poison not only this child, but her other children ; and this, it is believed, was strictly the fact. There was nothing particularly remarkable in the case of the other deceased female criminal, aged 60, who had been an inmate since January, 1839, having been tried, at that period, for an assault, or some such offence, and acquitted on the ground of insanity.

Final arrangements have not, as yet, been made by Government, for the removal, from the respective District Asylums, of their criminal inmates to a Central Criminal Asylum ; but, as the Authorities have agreed on the absolute necessity of this step, thus taking up the views which this Asylum was the first to suggest to the Executive, and perseveringly to press on its attention, it is very unlikely that another year will pass by, without so long-looked for a *desideratum* being carried into effect,—one which will materially help towards placing these Institutions in their proper position,—that of *curative*, and not, in anywise, merely *detentive*, abodes for the Insane. But, it must be



that of a female, now an inmate nearly fifteen years, the subject of chronic mania, without any lucid intervals, and with a most uncontrollable propensity, at particular periods, to destroy clothing, of all kinds, and break windows. She is quite aware of this destructive tendency herself; and, on its approach, invariably begs of the Nurse to have the muffs placed on her hands, which, if not done, she becomes considerably excited, and on the watch to do whatever damage she can possibly effect; whereas, if her request be attended to, she is immediately calm and contented, and the destructive propensity soon subsides.

#### HEALTH OF INMATES.

The health of the Establishment, generally, during the period included in this report, was equally good and favourable as in past years, with a total freedom, also, it has thankfully to be stated, from contagious disease. One case of Typhus fever occurred amongst the females; but, fortunately, it spread no further. Already, it has been pointedly mentioned how extremely desirable it would be to have Infirmary Wards set apart on each side of the Establishment, for the treatment of acute cases of casual illness, as well as for chronic ailments, amongst the inmates. For various reasons, this would be a most useful, as well as necessary, addition to the domestic arrangements of the Institution, and without which, it is so far deficient; but, owing to every available space being required for the accommodation of the inmates in ordinary, and more, too, if such could be commanded, Infirmary Wards have been, and are, out of the question; but, still, these deficiencies, as well as others, should be held in view, and the first opportunity taken of duly providing for them.

Under the head of "Health of Inmates," in last year's Report, was stated a somewhat extraordinary case of a female, admitted towards the close of that report, the subject of Catalepsy, or, more properly, Cataleptic Coma. For several months, she continued in the same condition as mentioned in the original statement of her case, being utterly insensible to surrounding objects, the calls of nature, and all ordinary impressions. Subsequently, however, she began to improve, gradually, in voluntary movements, mental power, and correct habits, being, at present (for she is still an inmate), as regular, perhaps, in all these respects, as she ever had been, and her bodily health remarkably good.



A greater number of deaths, comparatively, occurred this year than last, the total amount being forty (viz.,—fourteen males, and twenty-six females). The majority of these were cases in which medical treatment could absolutely do nothing, the subjects being completely worn out in mind and body; gradually sinking into the grave, without manifesting any symptoms of direct bodily ailment during life. Several were advanced in age, and inmates since the opening of the Establishment, nearly; and some, notwithstanding all the precautions that are taken, were sent to the Asylum, so exhausted and broken down, physically and mentally, as if merely that they should breathe their last within the walls of a public Institution. Four such cases are contained in the list of deaths now presented, all being hopeless objects of relief from the first, and having to be placed in bed almost immediately after admission, owing to the exceedingly frail state in which they were. Two of these were, respectively, only fourteen and fifteen days inmates; the other two, nineteen and twenty-five days. Eight were in the House between three and six months; two, between seven and twelve do.; six, between one and two years; eight, between three and six do.; four, between seven and ten do.; two, between ten and twelve do.; and four, between twelve and sixteen do. Four of the patients, in this list had attained the respective ages of 73, 73, 70, and 70, but, indeed as to age, it is a most difficult matter to arrive at the truth, as well as it is in other much more essential data, connected with the history of the patients generally.—Very frequently, it has happened, that those who had been inmates formerly, after being some years at home with their friends, and coming in again with a fresh attack of mental disease, are written down, in the more recently filled up form of certificate, several years younger, perhaps, than they were when first admitted: instances, of this kind (always, too, in reduction of years), are of common occurrence.

TABLE XI.—AGES OF THE 40 PATIENTS WHO DIED DURING THE YEAR.

|  | Males. | Females. | Total. |
|--|--------|----------|--------|
|--|--------|----------|--------|



TABLE XII.—SHEWING THE CAUSES OF DEATH IN THE 40  
PATIENTS WHO DIED, DURING THE YEAR.

|                                              | <i>Males.</i> | <i>Females.</i> | <i>Total.</i> |
|----------------------------------------------|---------------|-----------------|---------------|
| Died of General debility and exhaustion, ... | 8             | 11              | 19            |
| “ Epilepsy, ... ..                           | 4             | 2               | 6             |
| “ Dropsical affection, ... ..                | 0             | 2               | 2             |
| “ Chronic diarrhæa, ... ..                   | 0             | 2               | 2             |
| “ Pulmonary consumption, ... ..              | 0             | 2               | 2             |
| “ Injuries from a fall, ... ..               | 0             | 1               | 1             |
| “ Gastric disease, ... ..                    | 1             | 1               | 2             |
| “ Jaundice, ... ..                           | 0             | 1               | 1             |
| “ Pulmonary apoplexy, ... ..                 | 0             | 1               | 1             |
| “ Effects of typhus fever, ... ..            | 0             | 1               | 1             |
| “ Apoplexy and cerebral disease, ... ..      | 1             | 2               | 3             |
|                                              | 14            | 26              | 40            |

PRESENT STATE OF THE HOUSE, AS TO ACCOMMODATION.

The Male Department has been full throughout the year; and, occasionally, most inconveniently so, owing to Patients coming in from a distant part of the District, who had not been regularly written for, and for whom no actual vacancies were in existence, but who, nevertheless, were taken in, the disagreeable duty of refusing to receive them, common humanity forbidding the doing of. Two such cases, the same day, were thus brought in; though, at the head of each “Admission form,” it is expressly stated, that friends are, in the first instance, to assure themselves of a vacancy being at command, before a patient is transmitted, so that no excuse is left for any such irregularity, on their part. The above Wing not only continues full, but the outstanding cases, for its care, amount to twenty-two, of whom twelve are in Gaol, committed, temporarily, under the Act of 1. Victoria, already alluded to, and the remainder (ten) are on the books of the Establishment, as ordinary certificate cases, to be received as vacancies arise. The Female Wards have been, and are, able to meet all demands.

INTENDED ERECTION OF PROVINCIAL ASYLUMS.

No decisive step appears, as yet, to have been taken by the Government, for providing the requisite additional accommodation for the insane poor, in Ireland. Within the last two or three weeks, however, it would appear by the public prints, that a Bill had been introduced into the House of Lords, for this purpose, by Lord Monteagle (the Chairman of the Special



Committee of that House, appointed in the Session of 1843, to take into consideration the state of the lunatic poor, in Ireland), but the provisions of which have not been mentioned.—The general purport of a printed official document, as recently issued from the Castle (containing the correspondence of the Irish Executive with the respective Grand Juries and District Lunatic Asylums, &c., on this subject), appears in favour of the erection of Provincial Asylums, in which are to be placed the incurable cases, consisting of Idiots, Epileptics, and Paralytics, with all chronic cases of insanity, at present forming the large majority of the inmates of the existing District Asylums, which latter are proposed to be set apart for the treatment of recent cases alone. If this plan be carried into effect, fully two hundred patients, in this Asylum, will have to be removed, that number, at least, coming under the denomination of “Incurable,” leaving about sixty under its charge, which would be making it a “city of the dead,” almost, from the comparatively deserted aspect it must necessarily have, under so altered a state of things, being from one extreme to another. Now, it is only right to observe, that the so-called “incurables” are amongst the sanest,\* the most industrious, and most useful cases within the walls of Lunatic Asylums (excluding, of course, Idiots, Epileptics, and Paralytics); and who, being trained into habits of order and discipline, are an invaluable assistance in making new patients fall almost insensibly into similar habits, and which, without them, could not so easily or so satisfactorily be effected. Besides, to remove such, indiscriminately, from Institutions in which they had formed, from lengthened residences therein, attachments to all connected with its management,—nay, even with its very walls,—would, in innumerable instances, be sundering ties of the dearest description, and be productive of results, which every humane and philanthropic mind must feel pain in contemplating. The fact, too, of being transferred to a receptacle, expressly set apart for incurables, would appear to many

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\* In every “Asylum,” large as well as small, there are a number of cases commonly called “incurable,” who are perfectly sane *within* its walls; but, *without* and at home, immediately become turbulent, and, perhaps, dangerously excited. Many such cases are in this one. But the term “incurable,” as applied to prolonged insanity, it ought to be observed, is a very incorrect one,—it should be *chronic*; and not less objectionable is the designation “Lunatic Asylum,” which implies nothing of *treatment* for its inmates; but rather confinement or seclusion merely. *Hospital for the Insane* would be a much more fitting and scientific title.



of them as only another kind of perpetual imprisonment, as well as banishment, from the solace they enjoy in being comparatively near their immediate relations, and receiving visits from them at short and regular periods; as, also, shut out from their minds that hope, which they still have, of recovery (a hope, too, so desirable to keep alive), by seeing cases continually going away in their "right mind," and which, they fondly expect, will, one day, be their happy lot also. And, truly, it is often a matter of much and great nicety, to pronounce a case of insanity incurable, or set bounds to the period of recovery. The most hopeless cases, apparently (always, of course, keeping out of view, those complicated with Epilepsy and Paralysis), have frequently proved the very reverse, after years, perhaps, had elapsed, since the disease was manifested. These are only a few of the considerations which might be brought to bear on this very important matter; but further to enlarge upon it, here, would not be suitable.

#### INFIRMARY WARDS.—DORMITORIES.

Under any circumstances, whatever changes may be carried into effect, connected with the foregoing subject, various points of detail, for the comfort and efficiency of this Institution, as at present existing, would require being provided for. Infirmary wards have already been mentioned; and improvements in the Laundry and Kitchen departments have, also, in a former Report, been suggested. Should the Establishment be reduced in numbers, hereafter, it appears very deserving of consideration, that the large Dormitories, erected some years since, four in number, two for males, and two for females, and containing each twenty-five beds, should be re-constructed, subdividing them, so as that not more than three, or, at the utmost, four, should sleep in each. They were built, in the first instance, to accommodate increasing numbers as economically as possible, as well as making the most use of space, which latter was not then very available; but, be this as it may, Dormitories of their size, in which so large a proportion of human beings are collected, and breathing, too, an atmosphere, which, before morning, must necessarily be highly vitiated with animal and cutaneous exhalations (which, with the insane, in particular, it is well known to medical men, are more than ordinarily offensive),



is any thing but conducive to healthy action of the system ; added to which is another evil, and no small source of irritation to the occupants, generally, of Dormitories of such dimensions,—the noisiness during the night, which is kept up by some of the patients, independently of other causes of annoyance, unnecessary formally to state : but, even supposing the utmost peace, regularity, and quietness prevailed throughout the night, and the most perfect ventilation in operation, it is respectfully submitted, that, on hygienic and moral grounds alone, no sleeping room should contain more than four inmates ; although three would, perhaps, be the better limit.

#### WARMING OF DAY-ROOMS.

Before leaving the subject of the Report, as to improvements, &c., it occurs to state, that, with reference to the warming of the day-rooms, generally, the Hot-water Apparatus, which is in operation in the greater number, is far less efficacious in producing the requisite temperature than those heated by steam-pipes connected with the steam-boiler, in the kitchen. A well-regulated temperature is a point of the first moment for the Insane, and particularly in the Winter mornings, to have the day-rooms and corridors comfortably warmed before the patients enter them, is most desirable ; but this cannot be effected satisfactorily or expeditiously by means of the Hot-water Apparatus, which takes from three to four hours, at least, from the time the furnace is lighted, before any sensible change has been made in the temperature of the rooms, warmed through its means ; but not so in those fitted up with steam pipes, 15 or 20 minutes from the time the steam is put on being sufficient to raise the temperature to 58 or 60 degrees. There is one drawback, however, in the apartments so heated, that, inasmuch as there is only a single steam-boiler, which has, at stated times, to be chipped, and properly cleaned, in order to its due and effective working, the rooms depending on it are, from time to time, deprived altogether of heat ; and this, perhaps, at very inclement and cold periods, which is no small privation in its way. A second boiler, therefore, would be the only means of remedying this inconvenience ; and, were such to be erected hereafter, it might be worthy of consideration to heat more of the Establishment through the instrumentality of steam pipes, than at present ; or, if not, to adopt a better and



more effective, as well as economical, plan, than that of the Hot-water Apparatus, which has, by no means, given that satisfaction it was so fully expected would have been the case.

#### PATIENTS' BEDDING.

There is another point connected, in no small degree, with the physical comfort of the Patients, which may properly be here introduced—that of having the bed-steads of all the clean and convalescent inmates supplied with hair mattresses, instead of straw, as at present. In the end, even if only looked upon in an economical point of view, there can be but little doubt, that a saving of expenditure would accrue; and, in respect of comfort, appearance, and cleanliness, and though last, not least, health, the suggested change would, indeed, be a vast improvement on that which has so long been in operation in this particular of the domestic management of the Establishment.

#### RELIGIOUS SERVICES.

Each Sunday, as usual, those of the inmates, generally, who appear to have any proper idea of that day, and its sacred obligations, continue to be assembled together to hear Prayers read by the Resident Physician. Psalmody, also, forms a part of the day's services, the singing being by the patients themselves, principally, with the accompaniment of the Piano-forte or the Accordion. The average attendance is about one hundred and ten; and the attention of all, as well as their whole demeanour, on those interesting occasions of stated social worship, is surprisingly correct and serious. The influence and impressions, however, thus produced, are, with the greater number, afterwards, but of very short duration: still, viewing it as a moral means only in enabling self-control, for half an hour or more, being exercised, the performance of a simple religious service is not unproductive of good (small though this, its amount, may seem to be), on hearers so peculiarly circumstanced, and who, ordinarily, are so unsettled and restless in all their habits and movements.

#### EMPLOYMENT.

The employment of the male patients on the grounds (which, happily, are extensive, the Institution standing on forty Statute acres),—the great bulk of whom are thus healthfully occupied,—continues productive of the best effects. Stone draining has been pursued, to some extent, during the past year; and, doubt-



less, much improvement to the land may be expected from so very useful and necessary an operation. The employments in which the Patients, generally, are engaged, and the work executed by them, during the year, will be found, in detail, in the tables annexed.

#### EXPENDITURE AND AVERAGES.

The total expenditure of the year amounted to £3,230 8s 6d, being less than that of last year to the amount of £37 7s 6d, the total of which was £3,267 16s; and the average expense, per head, including every charge of management this year, was £12 9s 7 $\frac{1}{4}$ d,—last year's being £12 18s 2d;—thus making a reduction, this year, of 8s 6 $\frac{3}{4}$ d on each inmate. The average expense per head per diem was 8 $\frac{3}{16}$ d.

|                                                 |     |                       |
|-------------------------------------------------|-----|-----------------------|
| Total expenditure in food, during the year, ... | ... | £1,499 11 4           |
| Cost per head do., do., ...                     | ... | 5 15 10 $\frac{1}{4}$ |
| Cost do. per day in do., ...                    | ... | 0 0 3 $\frac{3}{4}$   |
| Total Expenditure in clothing, ...              | ... | 332 5 3               |
| Cost per head do., ...                          | ... | 1 5 8                 |
| Total expenditure in salaries and wages, ...    | ... | 661 15 0              |
| Cost per head in do. do., ..                    | ... | 2 11 11 $\frac{1}{2}$ |

The Resident Physician, in now concluding this formal annual Report of the Institution, has the happiness of stating, that its operations, generally, during the past year, were carried on in the same entirely harmonious spirit as heretofore; a spirit in which his estimable colleague, Dr. Thomson, enacted his particular part with his usual ability, benevolence, and courtesy.—The Male and Female Attendants have continued to fill their respective places with humanity, temper, and steadiness, which is so very gratifying an office for him being able to bear testimony to.

To the Board of Governors the Subscriber desires to present his best thanks, for the warm support they have so liberally given him, on all occasions, in which the welfare of the Establishment was concerned, or its humane objects appeared likely to be promoted.

ROBERT STEWART, M.D.,

Resident Physician, &c.

31st March, 1845.

TABLE XVIII.,

*Shewing the admissions and discharges, together with the average number of patients in the Belfast Asylum, each quarter, for the year ending 31st March, 1845:—*

| Quarter ending   | ADMISSIONS. |    |                 |    |        |    | DISCHARGES.             |    |       |    |        |    | Average daily number per quarter |
|------------------|-------------|----|-----------------|----|--------|----|-------------------------|----|-------|----|--------|----|----------------------------------|
|                  | New Cases.  |    | Relapsed Cases. |    | Total. |    | Recovered and Relieved. |    | Died. |    | Total. |    |                                  |
|                  | M.          | F. | M.              | F. | M.     | F. | M.                      | F. | M.    | F. | M.     | F. |                                  |
| 30th June, 1844, | 12          | 7  | 1               | 1  | 13     | 8  | 11                      | 8  | 4     | 8  | 15     | 16 | 262.5                            |
| 30th Sept., do., | 19          | 18 | 1               | —  | 20     | 18 | 15                      | 12 | 3     | 4  | 18     | 16 | 259.5                            |
| 31st Dec., do.,  | 11          | 13 | —               | 3  | 11     | 16 | 7                       | 10 | 3     | 6  | 10     | 16 | 257.9                            |
| 31st Mar., 1845, | 16          | 11 | —               | —  | 16     | 11 | 15                      | 11 | 4     | 8  | 19     | 19 | 255.3                            |
| Year's Total, {  | 58          | 49 | 2               | 4  | 60     | 53 | 48                      | 41 | 14    | 26 | 62     | 67 | 258.8                            |
|                  | 107         |    | 6               |    | 113    |    | 89                      |    | 40    |    | 129    |    |                                  |

TABLE XIX.,

*Shewing the aggregate admissions, discharges, &c., from each County in the district, from the opening of the Asylum, in June, 1829, to 31st March, 1845:—*

| Counties.     | ADMITTED.     |     |                    |    |        |     | DISCHARGED.                   |     |       |     |        |     | Remainin<br>31st March<br>1845. |     |
|---------------|---------------|-----|--------------------|----|--------|-----|-------------------------------|-----|-------|-----|--------|-----|---------------------------------|-----|
|               | New<br>Cases. |     | Relapsed<br>Cases. |    | Total. |     | Recovered<br>and<br>Relieved. |     | Died. |     | Total. |     |                                 |     |
|               | M.            | F.  | M.                 | F. | M.     | F.  | M.                            | F.  | M.    | F.  | M.     | F.  |                                 |     |
| Antrim, ...   | 373           | 385 | 24                 | 24 | 397    | 409 | 242                           | 257 | 88    | 102 | 330    | 359 | 67                              | 50  |
| Down, ...     | 378           | 331 | 31                 | 27 | 409    | 358 | 276                           | 235 | 61    | 68  | 337    | 303 | 72                              | 55  |
| C.fergus, ... | 11            | 8   | —                  | 1  | 11     | 9   | 5                             | 5   | 3     | 3   | 8      | 8   | 3                               | 1   |
| Totals, ... { | 762           | 724 | 55                 | 52 | 817    | 776 | 523                           | 497 | 152   | 173 | 675    | 670 | 142                             | 100 |
|               | 1,486         |     | 107                |    | 1,593  |     | 1,020                         |     | 325   |     | 1,345  |     | 248                             |     |

*Recapitulation of the above, with centesimal ratios:—*

|                      |   |                         |     |     |       |        |     |     |      |
|----------------------|---|-------------------------|-----|-----|-------|--------|-----|-----|------|
| ADMITTED,...         | { | New cases,              | ... | ... | 1,486 | Ratio, | ... | ... | 93.2 |
|                      |   | Relapsed,               | ... | ... | 107   | Do.,   | ... | ... | 6.7  |
|                      |   |                         |     |     | <hr/> |        |     |     |      |
|                      |   |                         |     |     | 1,593 | <hr/>  |     |     |      |
|                      |   |                         |     |     | <hr/> |        |     |     |      |
| DISCHARGED, ...      | { | Recovered and relieved, | ... | ... | 1,020 | Ratio, | ... | ... | 64.0 |
|                      |   | Dead,                   | ... | ... | 325   | Do.,   | ... | ... | 20.4 |
| Remaining in Asylum, |   | ...                     | ... | ... | 248   | Do.,   | ... | ... | 15.5 |
|                      |   |                         |     |     | <hr/> |        |     |     |      |
|                      |   |                         |     |     | 1,593 | <hr/>  |     |     |      |

TABLE XX.,

*Shewing the religious persuasion of the 248 patients remaining in the Asylum, on the 31st March, 1845:—*

|                                              | Males. | Females. | Total. |
|----------------------------------------------|--------|----------|--------|
| Established Church, ...                      | 31     | 26       | 57     |
| Roman Catholics, ...                         | 60     | 49       | 109    |
| Presbyterians and Protestant Dissenters, ... | 51     | 31       | 82     |
|                                              | 142    | 106      | 248    |



TABLE XXI.,

*Distinguishing the religious persuasions of the total number of patients admitted from the opening of the Asylum, in June, 1829, to 31st March, 1845, with centesimal ratios :—*

|                                             | Males. | Females. | Total. | Rate<br>per cent. |
|---------------------------------------------|--------|----------|--------|-------------------|
| Established Church, ... ..                  | 194    | 188      | 382    | 23.98             |
| Roman Catholics, ... ..                     | 274    | 257      | 531    | 33.33             |
| Presbyterians and Protestant Dissenters,... | 348    | 331      | 679    | 42.63             |
| W, ... ..                                   | 1      | —        | 1      | .06               |
| Total, ... ..                               | 817    | 776      | 1,593  | 100.00            |

TABLE XXII.,

*Showing the number of patients remaining in Asylum, on the 31st March, of each year, from its opening, and the yearly average number :—*

| Years. | Males. | Females. | Total. | Year's average. |
|--------|--------|----------|--------|-----------------|
| 1830   | 44     | 34       | 78     | 49.35           |
| 1831   | 58     | 61       | 119    | 103.68          |
| 1832   | 66     | 75       | 141    | 132.65          |
| 1833   | 59     | 71       | 130    | 131.45          |
| 1834   | 67     | 78       | 145    | 136.78          |
| 1835   | 81     | 86       | 167    | 156.20          |
| 1836   | 80     | 82       | 162    | 163.37          |
| 1837   | 79     | 90       | 169    | 165.96          |
| 1838   | 85     | 93       | 178    | 178.84          |
| 1839   | 106    | 102      | 208    | 194.13          |
| 1840   | 123    | 104      | 227    | 217.35          |
| 1841   | 132    | 113      | 245    | 244.67          |
| 1842   | 138    | 112      | 250    | 246.80          |
| 1843   | 140    | 112      | 252    | 249.44          |
| 1844   | 144    | 120      | 264    | 253.15          |
| 1845   | 142    | 106      | 248    | 258.83          |

TABLE XXIII.

*Forms of disease of the total number of patients remaining in the Asylum, on 31st March, 1845 :—*

|                                         | Males. | Females. | Total. |
|-----------------------------------------|--------|----------|--------|
| Mania, ... ..                           | 114    | 85       | 199    |
| Mania complicated with Epilepsy, ... .. | 5      | 5        | 10     |
| Mania—Melancholia, ... ..               | 9      | 12       | 21     |
| Imbecility, ... ..                      | 12     | 3        | 15     |
| Genital Idiocy, ... ..                  | 2      | 1        | 3      |
|                                         | 142    | 106      | 248    |

*Of the above cases remaining in the Asylum, 31st March, 1845, are*

|                                                            | Males. | Females. | Total. |
|------------------------------------------------------------|--------|----------|--------|
| Acute cases, } from acute Mania, { ...                     | 11     | 11       | 22     |
| Considered curable, } ...                                  | 18     | 10       | 28     |
| Beneficial, ... ..                                         | 13     | 10       | 23     |
| Considered Chronic cases from Chronic Mania, Epilepsy, &c. | 100    | 75       | 175    |
|                                                            | 142    | 106      | 248    |

*An Account of the Expenditure on, and Produce of, the BELFAST DISTRICT ASYLUM, for one year, being from 1st April, 1844, to 31st March, 1845.*

TABLE XXVII.

| EXPENDITURE.                          |     |    | PRODUCE.                                                                       |      |          |
|---------------------------------------|-----|----|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------|----------|
| Dr.                                   |     |    | Cr.                                                                            |      |          |
| To Seed Potatoes, ...                 | £25 | 0  | By Potatoes, 900 cwt., used in the establishment, and rated at 1s 6d per cwt., | £67  | 10       |
| “ Farm and Garden Seeds, ...          | 10  | 1  | “ Small Potatoes sold, 173 cwt., at 10d per cwt.,                              | 7    | 4        |
| “ Manure, ...                         | 23  | 0  |                                                                                | 2    | £74 14 2 |
| “ Spades and Shovels, &c., &c.,       | 4   | 19 | “ Wheat sold, 12 cwt., 2qrs., 11lbs., at 8s $\frac{1}{2}$ cwt.,                | 5    | 0        |
| “ Stones for draining, &c.,           | 18  | 1  | “ Oats, 90 cwt., used in establishment, and rated at 6s per cwt.,              | 27   | 0        |
| “ Tithe, ...                          | 3   | 13 | “ Hay, 160 cwt., using in establishment, and rated at 2s per cwt.,             | £16  | 0        |
| “ Iron, ...                           | 3   | 17 | “ Hay sold, ...                                                                | 1    | 5        |
| “ Bran, ...                           | 2   | 17 |                                                                                | 0    | 17 5 0   |
| “ Shoeing Farm & Market Horse, 1 13 4 | 1   | 13 | “ Straw, 140 cwt., used in the establishment, and rated at 1s 3d per cwt.,     | 8    | 15       |
| “ Balance, ...                        | 121 | 4  | “ Beans, 10 cwt., using in establishment, and rated at 7s per cwt.,            | 3    | 10       |
|                                       |     |    | “ Vegetables sold, ...                                                         | £45  | 13       |
|                                       |     |    | “ Do., used in establishment,                                                  | 31   | 0        |
|                                       |     |    |                                                                                | 76   | 13       |
|                                       |     |    | “ Osier Rods, made into baskets, for the establishment, ...                    | 1    | 10       |
|                                       |     |    |                                                                                | £214 | 8        |
|                                       |     |    | By Balance, ...                                                                | £121 | 4        |
|                                       |     |    |                                                                                | 9    | 10       |

# Dietary

OF

## THE BELFAST DISTRICT ASYLUM FOR THE INSANE POOR.

### BREAKFAST.

|                                                                        |  |  |  |  |              |              |
|------------------------------------------------------------------------|--|--|--|--|--------------|--------------|
| One Quart Stirabout (made with 7 oz. of coarse, or 8 of fine meal) and |  |  |  |  | } Males. }   | each Mornng. |
| Three-fourths of a pint of new or mixed milk, ... ..                   |  |  |  |  |              |              |
| One and half-pint Stirabout, and                                       |  |  |  |  | } Females. } |              |
| One half-pint new or mixed milk, ... ..                                |  |  |  |  |              |              |

### DINNER.

|                                       |  |  |  |  |              |                        |
|---------------------------------------|--|--|--|--|--------------|------------------------|
| Three pounds potatoes, and            |  |  |  |  | } Males. }   | Sunday, Tuesday,       |
| One quart soup, ... ..                |  |  |  |  |              |                        |
| Three pounds potatoes, and            |  |  |  |  | } Females. } | Wednesday, & Thursday. |
| One and half-pint soup, ... ..        |  |  |  |  |              |                        |
| Three and a-half pounds potatoes, and |  |  |  |  | } Males. }   | Monday, Friday, and    |
| One pint mixed milk, ... ..           |  |  |  |  |              |                        |
| Three pounds potatoes, and            |  |  |  |  | } Females. } | Saturday.              |
| One pint mixed milk, ... ..           |  |  |  |  |              |                        |

### SUPPER.

|                                            |  |  |  |  |              |               |
|--------------------------------------------|--|--|--|--|--------------|---------------|
| Eight ounces loaf bread, and               |  |  |  |  | } Males. }   | Each Evening. |
| Three-fourths of a pint mixed milk, ... .. |  |  |  |  |              |               |
| Six ounces loaf bread, and                 |  |  |  |  | } Females. } |               |
| One half-pint mixed milk, ... ..           |  |  |  |  |              |               |

Those of the convalescent patients who are actively employed are allowed four ounces of boiled meat, in addition to the soup, four days in the week. When the state of the patients' health requires it, the diet is changed, accordingly; and any other substituted that may be considered necessary.



